

Loughran Building (Bassin's Restaurant)  
1347 E Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.

389  
HABS No. DC-357

HABS,  
DC,  
WASH,  
230 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ALBUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. DC-357

## LOUGHRAN BUILDING (Bassin's Restaurant)

Location: 1347 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

USGS Washington West Quadrangle Universal  
Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
18.323820.4307020

Present Owner: Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation.

Present Occupant and Use: Vacant; to be demolished 1980.

Significance: This is a fine example of a Post Civil-War commercial building with Italianate details. It contains an elaborate two story interior space with traces of original detailing.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The building was constructed ca. 1872 (Washington Times, June 19, 1928). The architect is not known. Two three-story additions were made to the north of the original four-story building. One, approximately 25' x 20', was apparently built in the late nineteenth century; the other, approximately 18' x 39', was apparently built in the early twentieth century. There were gambling establishments in the Loughran Building during the nineteenth century, but no record of ownership or tenant is available until 1887. (Washington: A Not Too Serious History, p. 338.) Baist's Real Estate Atlas for 1887 shows the building as the D. Loughran Building. Daniel Loughran and Company, wholesale tobacco sales, occupied the building from 1887 until 1929, when their business moved to H Street, N.W. Daniel Loughran was president of the company until his death in the early 1920s when his son, John, took over. Various other family members held positions in the company. Tenants in the building after the Loughran Company included a pharmacy, newspaper office, offices for the National Press Club, and Bassin's Restaurant, which remained until a fire in 1978.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Loughran Building is four stories high and has a three bay facade. After the additions, the building measures approximately 25' x 110'. The facade is of pressed brick in stretcher bond laid in white mortar. It is now painted beige. The upper three floors have segmentally arched windows. A richly detailed cast iron window hood and sill decorates each window opening. The arched hoods have deep scotia moldings and rococo keystone ornaments. Consoles with scroll and acanthus motifs support the hoods. The ornamental window sills rest on brackets. The wooden cornice is divided into three parts, relating the building's three bays. The cornice is horizontal at the two side bays, and pedimented at the center bay. It rests on four heavy consoles. The decorative fascia is arched under the pediment. The ground floor storefront has a stone veneer to the sill line of the second floor windows. The original face brick remains beneath this veneer.

The only significant interior element is a large two-story space on the second floor. Two free standing and two engaged columns with simple plaster bases and capitals stand in a line about 6' from the west wall. A monitor above the center of the space admits light through center-pivoting clerestory windows. The lower portion of the monitor is a cove ceiling. A flat 11'-6" high ceiling runs around the room's perimeter. There are elaborate plaster and wood ornaments on the ceiling areas. Engaged columns between the clerestory windows, plaster moldings, and rosettes show evidence of a formerly rich color scheme. Traces of stencilled decoration remain on the cove ceiling.

Few original details remain in other parts of the building. The front room on the third floor has a pressed tin ceiling. Fireplaces in the two south rooms on the third and fourth floors have semi-circular or rectangular openings with cast-iron surrounds. The fireplaces on the third floor are surmounted by a marble mantelpiece. The following are sketched floor plans of the building.

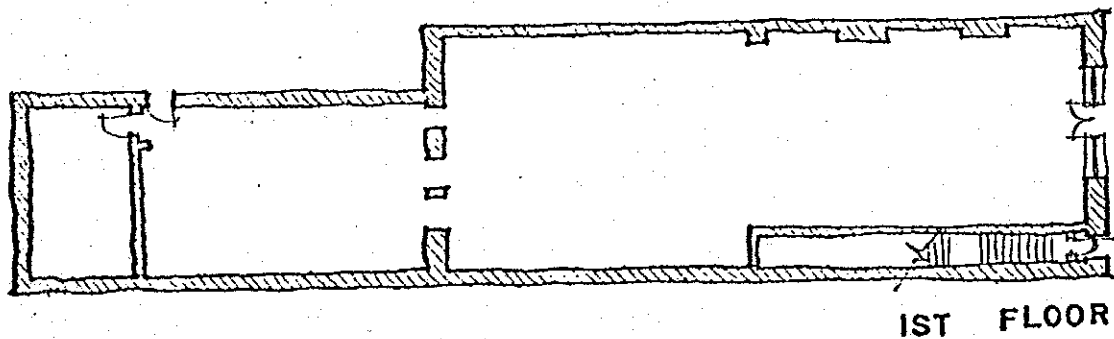
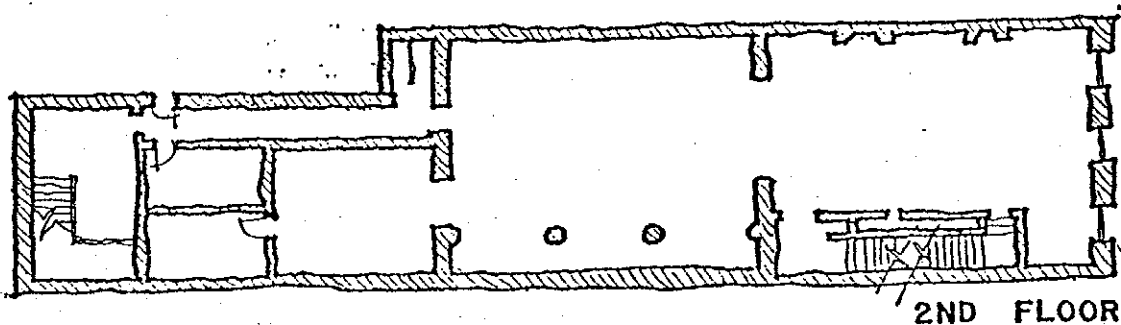
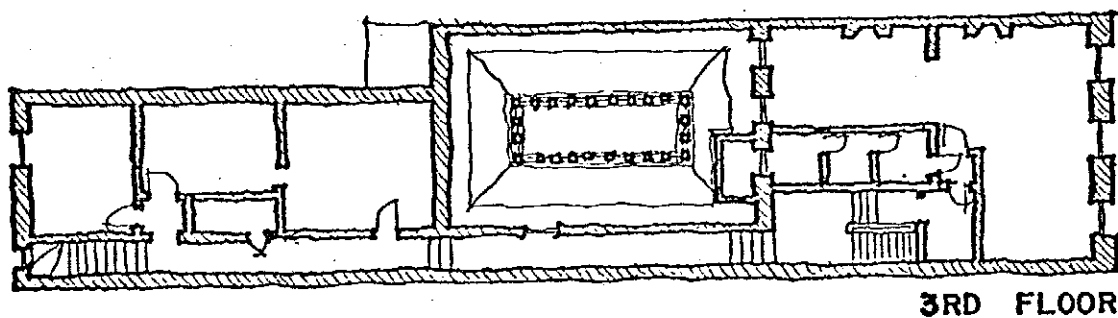
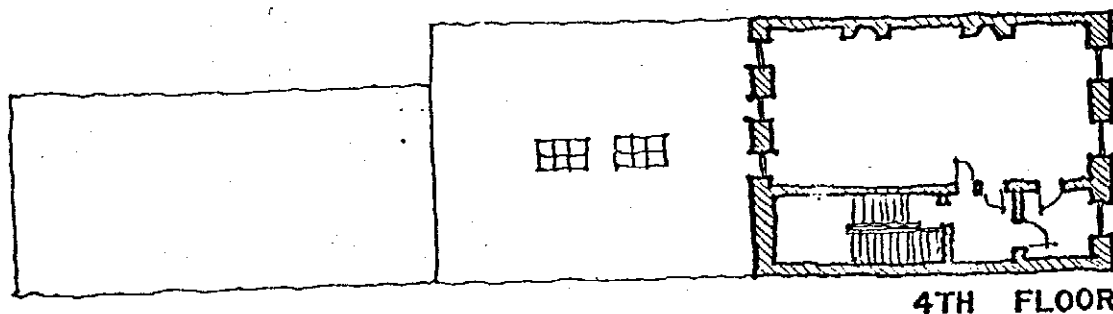
Prepared by Wendy Hunter  
PADC  
Washington D.C.  
October 1979

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in the demolition of buildings in Square 254. John A. Burns, AIA, was the HABS project coordinator. The historical information was prepared by Wendy Hunter of PADC, and was reviewed by Emily J. Harris, an architectural historian in the HABS office in November, 1979. Photographs were taken by Jeffrey Wolf of PADC in October 1979.

1347 E STREET N.W. WASH. D.C.  
(BASSIN'S RESTAURANT)

HABS  
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E STREET

ADDENDUM  
FLOOR PLANS...

Addendum to  
Loughran Building  
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1347 E Street, NW  
Washington  
District of Columbia

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